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HEAD QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI,
SHREVEPORT, LA., Nov. 22, 1863.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 198.

I. The necessities of the military service, and the preservation of the credit of the Government render the creation of an office to take charge of Cotton in the District of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona indispensable, and the same is established as follows:

W. J. Hutchins is assigned to duty in the Quartermaster's Department, with the rank and pay of Lt. Colonel, to take charge of cotton for the Government in the District of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, and will be allowed such associates as may be necessary, not exceeding four in number.

He will obtain from the planters, by sale or agreement, and if necessary, by impressment, all cotton that the Government may require for the purchase of army stores of all kinds, and to meet existing liabilities heretofore accrued.

All government officers, agents and contractors, engaged in the purchase or removal of cotton, in or through Texas, will, without delay, report to Lieut. Col. W. J. Hutchins, at Houston, Texas, the contract or authority under which they act, the amount of cotton purchased by them, and from whom; the disposition made of it, and the amount of cotton and transportation in their possession and under their control; and all parties having control of cotton, or cotton transportation belonging to the Government, will be governed by his instructions.

In future, all applications for the making of contracts based on cotton, or for exemptions from impressment in the District of Texas, &c., will, in every instance, be first presented to Lieut. Col. Hutchins for his approval. And all military officers in the District of Texas, &c., are prohibited from making such contracts or granting such exemptions, except upon application to Lieut. Col. Hutchins and his approval. All cotton now or hereafter in transit, not exempted as above directed, will be liable at any time to be impressed under the directions of Lieut. Colonel Hutchins, to meet and relieve the immediate military necessities of this Department, and the District Commanders will issue all the necessary orders, and render all the military assistance required to carry such orders into prompt execution.

Lt. Col. Hutchins will control the disposition of all cotton acquired by him for the Government in meeting the existing liabilities of the Government, and in the purchase of army supplies through an agent or agents designated by him, and approved by Lieut. Gen. Smith.

Lieut. Col. Hutchins will make his reports through Lieut. Col. W. A. Broadwell, to Department Head Quarters.

By command of

LIEUT. GEN. E. KIRBY SMITH,

GUY M. BRYAN,

Major & A. A. Gen.

Head Quarters, Dist. of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona,
HOUSTON, TEXAS, Dec. 1, 1863.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 327.

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VI. In conformity to the above, Lt. Col. W. J. Hutchins is assigned to duty as Chief of the Texas Cotton Bureau.

All officers and agents engaged in the purchase, or removal of Cotton, in this District, will report to Lt. Col. Hutchins, and be governed by instructions from him.

Those who have contracts, based upon the exportation of Cotton, will present them for revision, and those who hold permits to export Cotton will submit them for ratification, or cancelment, as this Cotton Bureau may determine.

Lt. Col. Hutchins will exercise his discretion in executing any order upon the subject of Cotton previously issued from these Head Quarters.

All transportation employed by the Cotton Bureau is exempted from impressment, and will not be molested by officers of this District.

BY COMMAND OF

Maj. Gen. J. BANKHEAD MAGRUDER,

W. A. ALSTON,

Capt. and A. A. General.

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